

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 205574
ORIGIN OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 /020 R

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DRAFTED BY:OES/NET/RD:JDEVINE

APPROVED BY:OES/NET/RD:JBORIGHT

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R 270308Z AUG 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

UNCLAS STATE 205574

FOLLOWING CANBERRA 5983 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO BONN LONDON
OTTAWA PARIS PORT MORESBY TOKYO VIENNA WELLINGTON MELBOURNE
SYDNEY BRISBANE PERTH AUG 25, 1977 REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE

UNCLAS CANBERRA 5983

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, EMIN, ENRG, PARM, AS

SUBJECT: GOA ANNOUNCES DECISION TO MINE AND EXPORT URANIUM

1. THE GOA OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED ITS DECISION TO MINE AND
EXPORT URANIUM ON AUGUST 25. IN AN EXTREMELY EFFECTIVE AND HIGHLY
PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATION, FIVE MINISTERS, WITH THE PRIME MINISTER
LEADING
OFF, JUSTIFIED THE GOVERNMENT'S DECISION. TEXT OF PM'S
BASIC STATEMENT FOLLOWS:

BEGIN TEXT:

"THE GOVERNMENT HAS GIVEN LONG AND CAREFUL THOUGHT TO
THE TWO REPORTS OF THE RANGER URANIUM ENVIRONMENTAL
INQUIRY.

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ZIT HAS BEEN CONSCIOUS AT ALL TIMES THAT THE DECISION
ON THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF AUSTRALIA'S EXTENSIVE RE-
SERVES OF URANIUM MUST BE MADE WITH A HIGH SENSE OF
MORAL RESPONSIBILITY OT AUSTRALIANS AND TO THE COMMUNITY
OF NATIONS.

"THIS WAS PREDOMINANT IN THE DECISION THAT HAS NOW

BEEN TAKEN--TO ALLOW DEVELOPMENT OF THE RANGER URANIUM DEPOSIT TO GO AHEAD, AND TO CONSIDER FURTHER DEVELOPMENT ON THE BASIS OF STRINGENT CRITERIA CONCERNING THE ENVIRONMENT AND CONCERNING ABORIGINAL WELFARE.

"THE TIME HAS COME WHEN WE IN AUSTRALIA SHOULD, IN THE INTERESTS OF INTERNATIONAL ORDER AND STABILITY, MAKE OUR POSITION CLEAR ABOUT THIS VITAL ENERGY RESOURCE.

"OUR DECISION WAS REACHED AFTER CONSIDERATION OF, AND PROPER PROVISION FOR, THE WELFARE AND INTERESTS OF THE ABORIGINAL PEOPLE OF THE ALLIGATOR RIVERS REGION. IT WAS REACHED ONLY AFTER THE MOST DETAILED CONSIDERATION OF QUESTIONS OF ENVIRONMENTAL PRESERVATION, AND OF THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN THE REGION AND WHO WILL WORK ON THE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS.

ZABSOLUTE PRIORITY HAS BEEN GIVEN TO MEASURES TO SAFEGUARD AGAINST NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION.

"THE GOVERNMENT ESPECIALLY HAS BEEN CONSCIOUS THAT IN A WORLD OF FINITE RESOURCES THERE IS AN OBLIGATION ON RESOURCE-RICH NATIONS, SUCH AS AUSTRALIA, TO MAKE THOSE RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO MEET THE LEGITIMATE NEEDS OF OTHER NATIONS.

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ZTHE STATEMENTS AND DOCUMENTS ENCLOSED WITH THIS LETTER SET OUT THE FACTORS WHICH GUIDED THE GOVERNMENT IN REACHING ITS DECISIONS. I TRUST THEY WILL ENABLE YOU TO APPRECIATE AND UNDERSTAND OUR REASONS."
END TEXT.

2. ANALYSIS FOLLOWS BY SEPTTEL. ALSTON UNQUOTE
CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EXPORTS, URANIUM, TRADE, REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 27-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE205574
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: OES/NET/RD:JDEVINE
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770310-0968
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770815/aaaaamjk.tel
Line Count: 102
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 77dadf51-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN OES
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1458744
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOA ANNOUNCES DECISION TO MINE AND EXPORT URANIUM
TAGS: PINT, EMIN, ENRG, PARM, AS
To: OTTAWA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/77dadf51-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009